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TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	09/542,897
	Filing Date	April 4, 2000
	First Named Inventor	J. Chisnell
	Group Art Unit	3626
	Examiner Name	M. Rodgers
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	FTP141A US

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
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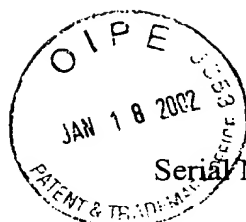
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**PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Serial No. 09/542,897 Examiner: M. Rodgers
Inventor: J. Chisnell Group Art Unit: 3626
Filing Date: April 4, 2000 Date: November 30, 2001
Title: Composite Sleeve For Sealing A Tubular Coupling

**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION AND AMENDMENT
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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Sir:

To highlight the distinctions of the above referenced invention over the prior art as interpreted by the Examiner in the Office Action of August 30, 2001, Paper No. 3, please reconsider and amend the above-identified application as follows

In the Specification

Kindly amend the paragraph beginning on line 16 of page 4 as follows:

Another problem with conventional tube end-forming processes is side loading that can occur when the tubular connection is torqued. When the connection is torqued, the O-ring can become pinched in one area and decompressed in another area. The decompressed area of the O-ring becomes a leak path. Additionally, under side load conditions the O-ring is assured of failing when subjected to the harsh pressure, temperature, and vibration conditions of a vehicular air-conditioning system.